

# 2012 INDUCTEES

## TONY CELLI - BUILDER



A passion is not something that can be forced upon an individual. It's a burning desire that comes from somewhere within and can't simply be extinguished. A strong undying commitment to building an unforgettable impression of soccer in the community of Sault Ste. Marie is and continues to be the driving force behind Tony Celli.

Sault Ste. Marie has one of the fastest growing soccer communities in Ontario. This exponential growth can be largely attributed to Tony. He has been a player, coach and active member of the Sault Amateur Soccer Association Executive and Board of Directors for the past 48 years and has been named as a Life Member.

Not only has Tony dedicated his time to coaching, with much success, but he has founded and organized numerous clubs, leagues, tournaments and events. In 1978 Tony founded, chaired and organized the Sault International Soccer Tournament, the largest soccer tournament in Northern Ontario, which brought thousands of participants from all over Canada and the United States to the Sault for many years. Tony then introduced the city to an Indoor Men's Soccer League in 1982 and he co-founded the Ladies Soccer League. In 2001, Tony convened soccer for the Special Olympics. The following year in 2002, he co-organized the Men's and Ladies' Algoma University varsity soccer teams and coached them in their initial years. Also in 2002, after many years of

persistence both local School Boards finally gave Tony approval to organize a High School Soccer League.

Tony dedicates a tremendous amount of time to the development of youth soccer in the community. He was instrumental in establishing the Youth Club Division in the 1970's, and later co-organized it to a Draft Youth System in 1988. As a result of his efforts the league grew from a mere couple hundred to thousands of youth. Tony also initiated and led Algoma University's Children and Youth Soccer Skills camps for 11 years. His knowledge and expertise has significantly helped children and youth develop their soccer skills. His "fun-first" approach to teaching and exuberant passion to expand the game of soccer in the community makes Tony an ideal role model for children and youth.

Everything about Tony emits class and sportsmanship. His reputation is unquestionably one of great respect and an ultimate gentleman. Tony genuinely enjoys being surrounded by the game of soccer, and is always enthusiastic about another soccer initiative. As a way to stay healthy and rejuvenated, he continues to play with the distinction of being the eldest player in the Senior Men's Recreation League.

It is fair to say that Tony has been a blessing to our community and his contributions have not gone unnoticed.

### **Accomplishments:**

- 1963 – 2012 - Sault Amateur Soccer Association - Executive Member, Life Member & Coach
- 1978 – 2002 - Founding Organizer of Sault International Tournament
- 1978 – 2002 - Founder of Algoma University Youth Soccer Camps
- 1982 - Co-Founder of Ladies Soccer & Introduced Men's Indoor Soccer
- 1986 – 1987 - George Wallace Trophy Award Winner
- 1989 - Assisted with Introduction of Youth Soccer Draft System
- 2002 - Founder of the Sault Amateur Soccer Association High School Soccer League
- 2010 - City of Sault Ste. Marie Medal of Merit Award

# LEN MONICO – BUILDER



Football is the game and Len is its Master. He began his football career as an athlete in the game playing center and linebacker. From 1957 to 1960 Len was part of the Sault Collegiate Wildcats Football team which acquired him several NOSSA championships. The following year, in 1961, Len suited up as a Red Bomber for the University of New Brunswick. Four years later Len tried out for the Canadian Football League's Hamilton Ti-Cats and was successfully drafted to the club. He played one season before deciding to turn in his professional career due to higher priority family commitments; however, Len's football career was far from over. The end of his athlete era was simply the beginning of his coaching one.

Len's contributions to the football community of Sault Ste. Marie as a Coach and Builder, has been and will continue to be irrevocably unforgettable. Len's renowned for his role and accomplishments with the Sault Steelers. Len acted as the principle architect and spearheaded the initiative to incorporating Sault Ste. Marie into the Northern Football Conference in 1972. Len was also named the Steelers' first Head Coach.

In its first year of existence the Sault Steelers, led by Len, captured the Donald Plaunt Memorial Trophy and were crowned the Northern Football Conference Champions. The Steelers went on to compete

at the National level in the Canadian Senior Football Championship. Never had a team from the NFC won a Canadian Championship, but apparently no one told Len that he was supposed to lose. The Steelers went on to defeat the London Lords and claimed the Robert James Ferguson Trophy, adding the title National Champions to their newborn club. That same year in 1972, Len Monico was named the NFC Coach of the Year and the Steelers were awarded the Sault Ste. Marie Medal of Merit. The following year in 1973, Len was awarded the H.P. Broughton Memorial Trophy for Sportsman of the Year and received the Province of Ontario Recognition of Achievement Award. To prove that the Steelers' achievements in its first year of existence wasn't a fluke, Len coached his crew to back-to-back NFC Championships in 1975 and 1976, acclaiming once again the title Coach of the Year consecutively. The Steelers continued to perform at an elite level and earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the NFC Championship in 1977.

Another football milestone in Len's life came in 1988 when he was honoured and inducted in the Northern Football Conference Hall of Fame. He continued to coach numerous high schools, including Bawating, Sault Collegiate, and St. Basil's, as well as the Sault Minor Football Association until he retired from coaching officially in 2002. Accompanying his retirement, Len was the recipient of the Honourable Justice I.A. Vannini Award of Merit.

## Accomplishments

1972 - Head Coach of the Sault Steelers – Canadian Sr. Football National Champions - (Robert James Ferguson Trophy)  
1972 - Sault Steelers Sr. Football Team entry into the Northern Football Conference (NFC) – Member of Founding Group  
1972, 1975, 1976 - Head Coach of the Sault Steelers – Northern Football Conference Champions  
(Donald Plaunt Memorial Trophy)  
1972, 1975, 1976 - Northern Football Conference Coach of the Year  
1988 - Inducted into the Northern Football Conference Hall of Fame



## MICHAEL A. ZUKE - ATHLETE

An interest sparked at an early age can ignite into a powerful flame of passion that can engulf and define an individual's life. For Mike Zuke that defining flame became gymnastics. His mesmerizing blaze of talent was kindled in the gymnasium of Bawating Collegiate and Vocational School. In his first year at Bawating, Mike was a member of the Junior City Championship Gymnastics Team and from then on the word Champion would be a repeat occurrence in Mike's life. In 1964, Bawating's Senior Men's Gymnastics Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in City competition with Mike finishing 5<sup>th</sup> overall. That same team went on to capture a NOSSA championship and competed at the Provincial Gymnastic Team Championship Meet. The following year in 1965 at an Invitational Gymnastics Meet, Mike placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and continued to carry his athletic success to the City Meet where both he and his Bawating team captured 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall finishes. Bawating went on to claim another NOSSA title and Mike improved his standing from the previous year placing 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the competition. In 1966 the Bawating team clenched its 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive NOSSA Championship as Mike topped his performance standing highest on the podium with a 1<sup>st</sup> place medal around his neck. That same year the team also earned themselves a Provincial Gymnastics Team Championship.

His mastery of the art of gymnastics only amplified his accolades in 1967. Mike and his Bawating teammates were crowned champions at an Invitational Gymnastic Meet, at the City Championships and at the NOSSA Championships. Sweeping all the top honours, Mike's accomplishments for the year of 1967 were not yet complete. Mike competed in his first National Canadian Winter Games of nearly 2,000 competitors and Mike Zuke was without question a top contender. He earned two silver medals in the high bar and parallel bars events which landed him an overall 4<sup>th</sup> place finish. He continued to add to his success with an Ontario Individual Meet all around gymnast title, Bawating's Male Athlete of the Year and a nomination for Sportsman of the Year.

With his high school career coming to an end, it was only a matter of time before a University capitalized on Mike's talents. Northern Michigan University succeeded in attaining Mike as an addition to their club. A freshman on a gymnastics scholarship, Mike embraced being a Wildcat and continued his tradition of being a top scorer in all competitions. His consistent work ethic and winning performance earned him the title of Captain in his first year as a Wildcat. In his sophomore year of 1969 Mike broke the Northern Michigan record for the horizontal bar. He once again continued dominating with several top scorer awards which contributed to numerous team awards as well. Mike also became the first and only athlete from Northern Michigan to compete in the NCAA Championships, held in California, where he placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the horizontal bar.

In his junior year of 1970, Mike continued to perform at a high caliber and lead Northern Michigan to a successful year of invitational tournaments and season wins. His final year in a Wildcat uniform in 1971, Mike propelled his team to victory, winning top honours yet again. His career at Northern Michigan saw him as the MVP for two years and a top all-around gymnastic for each of his four years. In 1972, Mike continued to participate in gymnastics at an elite level for Lakehead University. He was named top overall athlete at the Western Canada Intercollegiate Gymnastics Championship and also clenched a 5<sup>th</sup> place overall at the National University Gymnastic Competition in Edmonton. In the spring of

1972 Mike competed in the Senior Men's Provincial Championships in Kingston and placed 6<sup>th</sup> overall earning him a spot on Team Ontario which came with an opportunity to compete at the Canadian National Men's Championships in Calgary.

These Championships provided the forum to acquire a spot on the Canadian Olympic training camp team. Only nine gymnasts were chosen for the Olympic training camp and of those nine, three would be chosen to represent Canada in Munich's 1972 Olympics. Mike fell just shy of the Olympic training camp, placing 10<sup>th</sup> overall at the Canadian Nationals. Even though Mike's Olympic dreams were not realized, as he began his new career as a teacher he ignited a new phase of his life - coaching. His coaching career began at General Amherst High School where he encouraged expansion to the gymnastics program and lead the team to great successes from 1972-1974. Throughout his years of coaching Mike ensured that his athletes were not over looked. He introduced many of his gymnasts to the head coach of his alma mater, Northern Michigan, aiding them in acquiring gymnastic scholarships. From 1974 to the 1980's, while coaching at the YMCA, Mike mentored some of the Sault's best gymnasts. He also became part of a committee to raise money to build "The Sault Gym Club" to further the development of young gymnasts in our community and sat as a Member of Early Board of Directors for the club.

A top all-around gymnast at the Local, Provincial and National levels, an enthusiastic, passionate Coach and Builder, Mike Zuke is truly an exceptional and worthy addition to our Sault Ste. Marie Sports Hall of Fame.

## **Accomplishments**

1966 - 1967 - Top All Around Gymnast in Ontario High School Team Gymnastics Championships

1967 - Top All Around Gymnast in Ontario Provincial Individual Gymnastics Championship

1967 - Earned two silver medals and 4<sup>th</sup> Overall Standing in First National Canadian Winter Games

1967 – 1971 - Athletic Scholarship at Northern Michigan University – Top All Around Gymnast each year

1972 - Top All Around Gymnast in Western Canada Inter-Collegiate Gymnastics Championship

1972 - Tenth place Canadian National Senior Gymnastics Championship (Olympic Trials)